To the Maſters *or* Governors *of the Myſtery and Commonalty of* BARBERS *and* CHIRURGEONS *of* London.

NOT Doubting but You will be very ready to join in any Thing that may be of Uſe to Mankind; and I

having practiſed Surgery many Years, and alſo been acquainted with the Practice of many of the moſt eminent of our Profeſſion, who honeſtly and ſucceſsfully practiſed it: Yet, being of Opinion, that Surgery might ſtill be very much improved, by publiſhing ſuch Caſes as deſerve it; and thinking you the moſt proper Perſons to encourage it; therefore am deſirous, and ſhould be glad, you would appoint ſome of your Members to receive, and fairly and favourably examine and conſider ſuch Caſes as ſhall be offered to them

them by long experienced Practitioners, and give your Approbation of such as deserve to be made publick. This, I conceive, would very much contribute to the Reputation of Surgery, and be of great Advantage to Patients. And, to shew how sincere I am in what I propose, I here offer to your serious Consideration a Case I formerly communicated to some Physicians and Surgeons, and Sir *Hans Sloan* desiring me, I, in the Year 1721, left the following Account in his Hands.

In

In the Year 1715, I was ſent for to a Man who had a Mortification on the Foot, from an internal Cauſe, the Fever very high, attended with the irregular Pulſe that is uſual in the Caſe; I made deep Inciſions into the Part mortified to the Bone, and ſcarified all round as far as there was any Inflamation, and uſed the common Applications; upon which the Fever abated, the Pulſe became not only calm, but alſo regular, and in a few Days I had a Digeſtion at the Edges: I was obliged to leave it to the Care of an Apothecary;

thecary: But in a ſhort Time I was ſent for again, the Fever being returned, and the Part mortified higher, I uſed the ſame Method as before, with the ſame Succeſs; but all the former Symptoms returned the third Time; but, upon repeating the ſame Method again, ceaſed: I thought it to no Purpoſe to take off the Leg, having too often found Returns after it, the Fault being in the Blood and Juices. But Providence now firſt directed me to order the Bark in this Caſe, whilſt there was a Remiſſion of the Fever;

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it answered beyond what I expected; the Fever no more returned; the Leg was taken off, and I saw the Person well and lusty many Years afterwards; and I have since several times had the Experience of the good Effects of it in the like Case, which has been no small Satisfaction to me.

I think it as much my Duty to make a publick Acknowledgement of an Error of my Judgment for very many Years, because (others also of greater Eminency giving the same Judgment) I do verily believe it has been the Occasion

caſion of ſeveral unfortunate Women, not only to continue in a deplorable State, but alſo often to have a miſerable Exit, which by my too late Practice, attended with Succeſs, I have now Reaſon to believe, might have been prevented, if their Breaſts had been taken off in Time. This I think is worthy to be compaſſionately conſidered by all Surgeons, leaſt the too long Omiſſion of it, may ſome Time become an Uneaſineſs to them, as it now is to me, when I reflect of it. I hope none can put that Con-

ſtruction upon this, as if I expected, that in all Degrees of Cancers, taking off the Tumor, would be effectual; for ſome are of that Malignancy, even to ſo poiſonous a Nature, which, if blended with the Blood and Juices, nothing will anſwer; but I would not have any too much diſcouraged by the ill Aſpect of them; for two I had Succeſs in, appeared as ill and threatning as moſt I have ſeen; and therefore I would not have taken them off, if the Patients had not earneſtly deſired it. I think fit to intimate,

timate, that the fewer Medicines have been taken whilſt the Tumor remains on the better; for any Thing that cauſes the leaſt Fermentation of the Humours, does the more contaminate, and ſpoil the Blood and Juices.

If you ſhould think fit to encourage any Thing of this Nature, in the Way I propoſe, or any Way you ſhall think more proper; I have ſeveral Obſervations to offer to you, which I hope may be of Uſe;

From a Brother that heartily Wiſhes Proſperity to your Society, and is your

Northampton, Oct. 18. 1731.

Very Humble Servant,

JOHN RUSHWORTH.

POSTSCRIPT.

IT is to me a very melancholly Conſideration, that in a Nation ſo happy in its Laws and Government, there ſhould be ſo little Care taken to prevent the great Misfortunes that are very often brought upon the miſerable Subjects, by ſuffering thoſe to practice Surgery (the ancienteſt and certaineſt Part of Phyſick) with Impunity, that are ſo very ill qualified for it. Though I hope

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as far as your Power extends, this Miſchief is in a great Meaſure prevented. But for the Sake of the Country-People, ſo numerous and neceſſary a Part of our Fellow-Subjects; it is certainly the Duty of all thoſe that are ſenſible of it, to uſe their beſt Endeavours to get it put upon a better Regulation.

And if you can propoſe a Method to do it, if your Charter gave you Power ſufficient, you can never have a more favourable Opportunity to obtain the Enlargement of it for

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ſo good a Uſe; their preſent Majeſties having always ſhewn a humane Tenderneſs and Compaſſion for all their Subjects.

And if any new Law ſhould be wanting to compleat ſo neceſſary a Work; it is not to be doubted, but that a Parliament that has made ſo great Improvements in the Law, for the Preſervation of the Eſtates and Rights of the Subjects; will alſo, if it it be properly laid before them, take the ſame Care for the Preſervation of the Lives, Limbs, &c. of the Peo-

ple,

ple, in which a particular Proviſion may be made for the Advantage of the Poor of the Pariſhes, by erecting an Infirmary in the Center of every County, to receive ſuch Poor as have Occaſion for the Aſſiſtance of a good Surgeon; and for want of it, in ſome Caſes, become Cripples, and in others, lie long in a languid and miſerable Condition, to the great Expence of the Pariſhes.

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